Minutes State Board of Education September 9, 2009

The September 9, 2009, meeting of the State Board of Education was held at the North Liberty Recreation Building, North Liberty, Iowa. The following State Board members were present: Rosie Hussey, Max Phillips, LaMetta Wynn, Frank Scaglione II, Valorie Kruse, Brian Gentry, and Sister Jude Fitzpatrick. Director Judy Jeffrey and Iowa Department of Education (Department) staff members Gail Sullivan, Carol Greta, Kevin Fangman, Konni Cawiezell, Elaine Watkins-Miller, Del Hoover, Roger Utman, Jim Addy, Arlie Willems, Tom Cooley, Sharon Hawthorne, Kent Farver, and Jody Crane were present. Also in attendance were Meredith Hines-Dochterman, The Gazette; Tom Cope, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees; Kay Forsythe, Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency (AEA) 8; Dean Meier, AEA 267; Joen Rottler, Ashford University; Kerry Bostwick, Cornell College; Jay Simmons and Ginny Maurer, Iowa Wesleyan College; Jeff Kirby, Todd Abrahamson, Jessica Magill, and Aaron Meiners, Sigourney Community School District; Dawn Bowlus, Jacobson Institute for Youth Entrepreneurship; Phyllis Anderson and Myra S. Hall, Grant Wood AEA 10; and Jeff Henderson, Archdiocese of Dubuque.

STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

President Hussey called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

It was moved by Brian Gentry and seconded by Valorie Kruse that the September agenda be approved.

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Director's Report

❖ No Child Left Behind State Report Card Judy Jeffrey announced that the Department released the State Report Card for No Child Left Behind for 2008-2009. The report shows that the overall state percentage of Iowa public school students met the state's annual objectives. In addition, nearly 80 percent of Iowa's public schools are not designated in need of assistance for the 2008-2009 academic year. The report has several new additions. For the first time, it provides National Assessment of Educational Progress data. The report also includes enhanced data on Iowa's graduation rate as well as information regarding schools and districts identified as in need of assistance.

❖ H1N1 Flu

Jeffrey reported that in preparation for the 2009-2010 flu, the Department and the lowa Department of Public Health are providing schools and community colleges with prevention and preparation resources. Closing schools has been removed from the recommendations unless schools are not able to provide adequate staffing.

State Revenues and Budget

Jeffrey stated that the August gross receipts fell 4.9 percent, lead by a drop in monthly sales tax receipts. Year-to-date growth for gross receipts is at -2.7 percent, which signifies that there has been a slowdown in cash receipts. As accrued revenues and expenditures are determined in closing the books during September, a clearer picture of how fiscal year 2009 ended and fiscal year 2010 is beginning will be seen. The Revenue Estimating Conference will consider all of this information when it meets on October 7. Across-the-board cuts are an option that many people believe will be necessary and could occur this fall. State agencies are preparing status quo budgets for the upcoming fiscal year and legislative session. In the past, the Department presented the State Board with offers. This process has been altered and agencies are not preparing any new offers. Jeffrey asked the Board to consider this information when they are presented with their legislative agenda.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Jeffrey indicated that the Department is offering numerous training events across the state to assist school districts and community colleges in reporting to the Iowa Department of Management the expenses and jobs saved or created for quarterly reporting as required by the federal government. The first quarterly report is due in October. The Department

continues to work with the federal general accounting office as one of the 15 states for which they are providing additional oversight. Each of the programs also funded by the ARRA

funds will require additional reporting from the Department and the districts. A Phase II application is also required from the state which is due in October and must be fully approved before a state can compete in the Race to the Top competitive funds. Both applications have data elements that the Department finds difficult to comply with, either because the data systems are not ready or there are other barriers such as a state Supreme Court ruling which has determined that evaluations of employees are confidential documents. The Department provided comments to the United States Department of Education within the 30-day comment period and will wait to see if changes are made to the proposed requirements.

Research and Development School

Director Jeffrey and the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) president have appointed the transition committee for the Research and Development School. A facilitator has been selected, the first meeting held, and the scope of work outlined for the committee. The second and third meeting dates have been established with reports due to the Director and the UNI president before the first of the year.

State Board Technology Task Force

Jeffrey reported that the State Board's Technology Task Force members have been selected, the agenda is being finalized, and the first meeting will be held September 25. Learning Point Associates will be providing the facilitators, developing the report, and doing research.

Meeting with Math and Science Professors

Jeffrey indicated that she met with the math and science professors and that this is the first time they have come together. They talked about the Iowa Core and their responsibility to provide the highest quality teachers in math and science. Jeffrey told the professors that 83 percent of Iowa's current teachers were trained in their institutions. The professors were very receptive. They talked about the need to integrate the Core Curriculum into their preparation programs and prepare teachers to teach the Core.

CONSENT AGENDA

Max Phillips moved and Sister Jude Fitzpatrick seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Rules: Chapters 22 (Senior Year Plus) and 97 (Supplementary Weighting) (Adopt)

Carol Greta, Attorney, Office of the Director, presented the Senior Year Plus and Supplementary Weighting rules. She explained that it is necessary to update Chapter 97 to implement some of the new requirements of supplementary weighting.

Greta stated that the changes to Chapter 22 were a result of the comments the Board heard from the Fort Dodge Community School District at the July State Board meeting relating to the 4 x 4 block. The rule was changed by defining full-time as 24 or more hours in an academic year instead of 12 hours or more per semester. Greta stated that the Department has not heard anything to indicate that there are any additional problems with the rules.

There was discussion on the distinction between regional academies and career academies, who is financially responsible if a student wants to take additional hours, what is in the legislation, what the Department is going to do to clarify issues on concurrent enrollment and transportation costs, and what is in the best interest of students when it comes to taking additional classes.

Motion: Sister Jude Fitzpatrick moved and LaMetta Wynn seconded approval to adopt the proposed amendments to Chapters 22 and 97.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

President Hussey thanked Department staff for working with community colleges and superintendents on doing what's right for kids.

Area Education Agency Accreditation (Prairie Lakes AEA 8 and AEA 267)

Sharon Hawthorne, Special Education Consultant, Tom Cooley, School Improvement Consultant, co-leaders of the AEA Site Team visit, presented information for Prairie Lakes AEA 8 and AEA 267.

Hawthorne stated that the Bureau of Student and Family Support Services is continuing their efforts to further integrate special education into the AEA accreditation visits. They have new expectations from the Office of Special Education based on the regulations and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act from 2004. Hawthorne described the AEA accreditation visit process. She stated that the process includes training the team, document review, interviews, debriefing, wrap-up, and team building consensus.

Cooley reviewed the strengths and areas for improvement found in the site visits for each of these agencies. Hawthorne provided examples of highlights from each AEA.

Cooley talked about the new format of the report. The report is now framed around the standards rather than the 11 criteria that were previously used. This is the same approach used when conducting school improvement visits. The standards are: School-Community Planning; Professional Development; Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Diverse Learner Needs; Multicultural/Gender Fair; Media; School Technology; and Leadership.

Cooley indicated that the accreditation workgroup will continue to work with the AEAs on the expectations regarding the standards.

Cooley reminded the Board that the annual AEA customer survey continues to coincide with the school year that the responders are being asked to address. This is a change that was made last year and the results have improved.

Cooley indicated that this upcoming year, accreditation visits are scheduled in Mississippi Bend AEA 9 and Heartland AEA 11.

Cooley stated that based on the results of the findings and team member suggestions from Prairie Lakes AEA 8 and AEA 267, it is recommended that both agencies be granted full accreditation.

Dean Meier, AEA 267 Administrator, and Kay Forsythe, Prairie Lakes AEA 8 Administrator, provided comments and talked about challenges in their agencies. They also responded to the following questions:

- 1) Are you ready and able to deliver the lowa Core Curriculum to your districts and if not what are the issues?
- 2) How in tune are you with the financial situation of your districts and are you working with the Department to make sure that any of those districts that are in financial stress are getting the right kind of guidance?
- 3) Do you have any thoughts on further restructuring of AEAs?

There was additional discussion about communicating and helping people understand the Iowa Core Curriculum, and the positive relationship AEAs have with the Department.

Motion: It was moved by Max Phillips and seconded by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick to approve continuing accreditation for Prairie Lakes AEA 8.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: It was moved by Max Phillips and seconded by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick to approve continuing accreditation for AEA 267.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Cornell College Practitioner Preparation Program

Arlie Willems, Administrative Consultant for Practitioner Preparation, Bureau of Accreditation and Improvement Services; introduced Dr. Kerry Bostwick, Education Department Chair, Cornell College.

Willems provided an explanation of how the reporting is done and stated that the focus is on continuous improvement. She indicated that the review team consists of eight people and works with six standards that are outlined in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 79. The report identifies strengths of the program, concerns or suggestions, and items that must be addressed before an institution can be recommended for approval. Willems explained that institutions are generally very cooperative during the process because they want to be a partner with the Department to produce the best teachers possible. Some of the items that need to be addressed can be accomplished in a short amount of time while others require more attention.

Willems stated that Cornell College is a liberal arts college in Mount Vernon, Iowa. Their students take one course during a three-and-a-half-week block. Approximately 20 candidates a year are recommended for Iowa teacher licensure for both elementary and secondary.

Willems indicated that the visit occurred on March 8-12, 2009. The team examined six standard areas: Governance and Resources, Diversity, Faculty, Clinical, Curriculum, and Assessment.

Bostwick commented that working with Willems and her team is always a pleasure. They are always collaborative, cooperative, helpful, and responsive. The review process is very important because it helps them see areas they can improve upon.

Motion: It was moved by LaMetta Wynn and seconded by Valorie Kruse that the Cornell College practitioner preparation program be granted full approval through the next state visit cycle scheduled for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Iowa Wesleyan College Practitioner Preparation Program

Arlie Willems, Administrative Consultant for Practitioner Preparation, Bureau of Accreditation and Improvement Services; introduced Dr. Ginny Maurer, Education Department Chair; and Dr. Jay Simmons, President, Iowa Wesleyan College.

Willems indicated that Iowa Wesleyan College is a liberal arts college and is located in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Willems described the history of the college stating that they have, in effect, two teacher education programs. One program is on campus and the other is an extended learning program housed at Southwestern Community College and the Muscatine Community College.

Willems reported that under Governance and Resources in the report, the team found the two programs to be acting separately; the extended program was not integrated into the program located on campus. Willems stated that within the last four years, the entire faculty of the campus program had changed with the exception of one person.

Willems reviewed the areas of concern and the items to be addressed for the off-campus programs. She stated that much has already been accomplished to integrate the off-campus program with the campus program. A detailed plan has been submitted for completion of the work. The work is to be completed by December 2010.

There was discussion on the proportion of students in both programs and the number of full-time participants.

There was additional discussion on offering conditional approval as opposed to full approval. Willems indicated that the Department would be monitoring the program and that the rules indicate the Department has the option of revisiting. Therefore, if the Department doesn't receive the kind of outcome it wants to see in a year, the program can be brought back for another year.

Willems reviewed the remaining standards: Diversity, Faculty, Clinical, Curriculum, and Assessment.

lowa Wesleyan College officials spoke about submitting a plan within the timeline and the commitment and support they have from administrators, their board, and faculty from both the main campus and the extended learning campus. Director Jeffrey encouraged the lowa Wesleyan College officials to ensure quality at the satellite campuses as well as at the main campus. Ginny Maurer commented that as a result of the changes, there could be a reduction in enrollment. However, she is hopeful that in time their reputation will be built and people that want to be serious in their profession will come to their school.

Motion: It was moved by Max Phillips and seconded by Valorie Kruse to grant the Iowa Wesleyan College Practitioner Preparation Program conditional approval through December 2010 and to come before the Board again after the plan has been implemented.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Ashford University Practitioner Preparation Program

Arlie Willems, Administrative Consultant for Practitioner Preparation, Bureau of Accreditation and Improvement Services, provided information on the Ashford University Practitioner Preparation Program. She indicated that the practice is to bring new graduate programs to the State Board that only result in licensure or a teaching endorsement.

Willems reported that Ashford is a proprietary private university in Clinton, Iowa. Their total enrollment is 42,000 with 98 percent being online students. Willems stated that Ashford currently has a masters' program; however, it is not approved by the State Board because it does not result in an endorsement or license.

Willems stated that the Master of Arts in Education program has three options that are for professional development that do not require State Board approval; however, approval is needed for the special education program because it does result in the Strategist 1 endorsement. The Strategist 1 endorsement is already approved as an undergraduate program. She indicated that the Department is asking the Board to extend that into a master's program. Willems explained that if a school has an endorsement at a graduate level, there is an additional requirement of some research. However, the Board of Educational Examiners' endorsement remains the same.

Willems recommended that the State Board approve Ashford University's Master of Arts in Education as a new master's program; specifically, addressing the endorsement as a Strategist I.

There was a question on what the Department would expect to receive if this approval is granted to supplement the previous curriculum and if there would be new reporting expectations or benchmarks to address the research component. Willems responded that this will not be necessary. The Higher Learning Commission addresses the graduate requirements.

Motion: It was moved by LaMetta Wynn and seconded by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick to approve Ashford University's Master of Arts in Education program through the next scheduled full accreditation visit, tentatively scheduled for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

2009-2010 Academic Year, Iowa Community Colleges Tuition and Fees Report

Director Jeffrey reported that she recently met with the community college presidents and they expressed their delight with the reports that are being developed and the data that is being presented by the Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation. The reports are very helpful to them in their own development and analysis of the data.

Roger Utman, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation; introduced Kent Farver, CPA and Educational Program Consultant, Bureau of Community College Services.

Farver provided highlights, comparisons, trends, and items to note from the *Tuition & Fees Report 2010*.

There was discussion about the tuition increase rate.

State Board Legislative Agenda for 2010

Konni Cawiezell, Legislative Liaison and Policy Consultant, Office of the Director, outlined the proposed State Board legislative priority platform for the upcoming legislative session. The platform is used to communicate funding and policy priorities to legislators, the general public, and a variety of stakeholders. Board members reviewed the platform and provided comments. In addition to the State Board's legislative priority platform, Cawiezell reviewed the Department's prefiled bills that have been submitted to the Governor's office. The prefiled bills include:

- Charter Schools
- Specially Accredited Schools
- Certification of School Business Managers
- Innovation Zones
- Russell Reorganization Bill
- Code Correction

Motion: A motion was made by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick and seconded by Max Phillips to approve the State Board legislative advocacy platform for the 2010 legislative session.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

The State Board toured the North Central Junior High School in North Liberty, Iowa.

The building had many "green" features which were of particular interest to the Board.

Innovative Program – eSigourney Entrepreneurial Academy for Leadership (eSEAL)

Superintendent Todd Abrahamson, introduced Jeff Kirby, Principal, and students Aaron Meiners and Jessica Magill, Sigourney Community School District; and Dawn Bowlus, Executive Director, Jacobson Institute for Youth Entrepreneurship.

Abrahamson talked about the program and shared a PowerPoint on the eSigourney Entrepreneurial Academy for Leadership (eSEAL). The eSEAL was formed with a focus on broadening choice for all students in the Sigourney Community School District in grades 7-12, including the district's alternative school students. It is designed to help students realize opportunities to be entrepreneurs, select postsecondary options, and to expand their opportunities in career fields. A long-range goal for the community is to stop the "brain drain" from the local area and to demonstrate that students can have a productive, successful life owning a personal business, locally, or within the state of lowa.

eSEAL provides choice for students in grades 7-12 to grow entrepreneurial skills through the application of classroom knowledge to the actual experience of owning a personal business. A strong relationship with Indian Hills Community College allows students, through a flexible 4+1 schedule, to enroll in postsecondary classes leading to a variety of careers.

Jeff Kirby talked about the program's involvement with virtual reality.

Kirby introduced student Jessica Magill. Magill talked about her success with being a web designer as a result of participating in the eSEAL program. She builds and maintains webpages or trains customers to maintain their own webpages. The Sigourney School District has hired Magill to design the eSEAL website.

Kirby introduced student Aaron Meiners. Meiners talked about his success as a result of participating in the eSeal program. He owns a business called "Aaron's Shaved Ice."

Dawn Bowlus provided background on the Jacobson Institute for Youth Entrepreneurship. She stated that it is a key partnership organization with the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center at the University of Iowa.

Update on the Iowa Core Curriculum

Kevin Fangman, Administrator, Division of PK-12 Education; introduced Jeff Henderson, Superintendent of Schools, Archdiocese of Dubuque; and Phyllis Anderson and Myra S. Hall, Grant Wood AEA 10.

Fangman provided an overview of the Iowa Core Curriculum. Specifically, he talked about the continued work with the Iowa Core Curriculum Network; the development of professional development, processes, and tools; continued articulation of the Iowa Core Curriculum; and implementation planning.

Jeff Henderson, Phyllis Anderson and Myra S. Hall shared information on the Iowa Core and accredited nonpublic schools. Henderson talked about how accredited nonpublic schools are implementing the Iowa Core, and how AEAs 1, 267, and 10 are working with them. Henderson provided demographic information on the Archdiocese of Dubuque; and talked about funding and the diversity of nonpublic schools. He stated it is important for the Board to understand the complexity of implementing the Iowa Core into their programs.

Henderson indicated they are in the process of developing their leadership teams and stated they will be infusing the Catholic value perspective into the curriculum. Henderson described the goals that were developed and shared a checklist that is used with their administrators.

There was discussion about what other accredited nonpublic schools are doing in the state.

Update on New Iowa Department of Education Data Systems: EdInsight and E-transcript/Student Record Exchange

Jim Addy, Administrator, Division of School Support and Information, indicated that there is an extensive push by the federal government for states to develop their own longitudinal data systems to track students over time. It is one of the four assurances that the state of lowa agreed to fulfill for the stimulus dollars.

Addy demonstrated the electronic transcripts/student record exchange piece (e-transcript) of the longitudinal data system. He provided the context of the data systems and how they fit into the larger picture.

State Board Policy Development Priorities and Master Calendar

Because of time constraints, President Hussey moved the State Board Policy Development Priorities and Master Calendar agenda item to the November 2009 State Board meeting.

Gail Sullivan distributed the tentative November 2009 State Board agenda and indicated that the Iowa Association of School Boards is considering changing the format of their meeting to a one-day conference.

Board Reports

<u>Sister Jude Fitzpatrick</u> has a Coordinating Council for Hearing Services meeting on September 14.

<u>Frank Scaglione</u> stated that he is looking forward to being a member of the Technology Task Force. He also indicated that he met with Dave Wilkerson, Superintendent, Waukee Community School District, and talked to him about the State Board's focus of innovation.

Max Phillips indicated that at an upcoming Iowa Business Council (IBC) meeting they will be hearing a proposal about creating a statewide business education alliance. Phillips stated that key players will come together to try to find some commonality in priorities. For example, when the legislature convenes next year, there would be a

single message as opposed to several different priorities as to what should happen in the state especially around funding issues. If the IBC accepts this proposal, it will happen shortly. Invitees include the Department, the Iowa State Education Association, School Administrators of Iowa, the Iowa Association of School Boards, community colleges, and others.

Rosie Hussey indicated that the State Board wants to have a work session on the Institute for Tomorrow's Workforce when the report is finalized. Phillips indicated that November would be a good time for this report and that Ben Allen should be invited.

<u>Valorie Kruse</u> stated that the Wallace Foundation will be meeting the following week and that she will be going to Washington, DC, with the Wallace Foundation in October.

Kruse indicated that she and LaMetta Wynn will report at a future time on the National Association of State Boards of Education new member institute they attended in July.

<u>LaMetta Wynn</u> indicated that her local district had six schools that had 21st century after school programs; however, three of them have been cut because of funding. They are hopeful that by December some of the funds will be restored.

Rosie Hussey reported that she had an opportunity to network with local Mason City Community School District teachers and had a discussion on the Iowa Core. She was pleased with their progress and attributes that to the leadership of the superintendent.

Hussey stated that she plans to talk about the self-assessment that Board members completed at the summer retreat at a later time.

Hussey asked the Board to review the education association meeting dates to see what meetings they would be able to attend. She reminded the Board that they had discussed two or three Board members attending each of the meetings in a less-formal setting. Hussey indicated that the State Board legislative agenda and priorities will be available for Board members to take to the meetings.

Rosie Hussey	Judy A. Jeffrey, Director and

Executive Officer

President Hussey adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

President